(b) whether ShriBabu Singh Chau- 1 han, village and post office Chhira-wali, Distt. Aligarh, who is the bro. ther of the above prisoner of war, has made several repesentations to Government and submitted evidence to show that Saheb Bahadur Singh Chauhan is still in Pakistani custody which has been corroborated by those who were in jail with him and have since returned to India; and

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to secure the release of Indian prisoners of war in Pakistani jails and what particular steps have been made to secure the release of Saheb Bahadur Singh Chauhan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Shri Saheb Bahadur Singh is reportedly one of the 54 missing Defence personnel who are believed to be in Pakistani jails.

(b) Government have received representations from Shri Babu Singh Chauhan regarding his missing brother.

(c) Government have repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan the question of release and .repatriation of all the missing Defence personnel who are believed to be in Pakistani jails. The Govern. ment of Pakistan, however, maintains that there are no Indian Defence personnel in its custody. We are continuing to press Pakistan on this issue.

Meeting bfetween Pakistan's foreign Minister with U.N. SecretaryGeneral

4684. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani Foreign Minister had met the U.N. Secretary-General around June 23, 1992 and accused India of Interfering in Sind Province affairs while referring to Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what are the details of the talks; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(c) Government reject these baseless allegations as entirely without foundation.

Opening of a Passport Office at Rajkot

4685. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand for opening a new passport office at Rajkot in Gujarat to cover entire Saurashtra Region;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard;

(c) the total number of passport/ visa applications received from the Saurashtra region, year-wise, month-wise break up for the last three years; and

(d) whether there is a heavy work load on Ahmedabad regional passport office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA):
(a) Yes, Sir.